

REMARKS

Claims 21-32 have been examined. Claims 21-23, 27, 30 and 31 stand rejected. Claims 26 and 31 are hereby canceled by this Amendment without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 24-26, 28, 29 and 31 contain allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 21 to incorporate the features of claim 26, and amended claim 30 to incorporate the features of claim 31. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 21 and 30 are in condition for immediate allowance. Further, Applicants submit that claims 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29 are allowable, at least because of their dependency. Additionally, because claim 32 has been amended to depend from claim 30, Applicants submit that claim 32 is also allowable because of its dependency.

New claim 33 has been added, which incorporates the features of unamended claim 21 and the allowable features of claim 24. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 33 is in condition for allowance.

Thus, Applicants submit that claims 21-25, 27-30 and 32-33 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion


In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/981,743

Atty. Dkt. No. Q66747

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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